

**Attachment 1**

**Public Comments**

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Sally Cockrell [sallyc@va.metrocast.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 12, 2011 6:01 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Tappahannock-Essex County Airport

My husband and I object completely to the proposed construction planned for the Airport. First of all the helicopters and crop dusters have really been a nuisance. The helicopters shake our walls and several items were broken. Secondly, the Crop Dusters fly directly over our house and will go in circles continuously over our trees. They seem to be playing a game of how close they can get to our tree tops. I made several calls to the airport already in the last two years concerning the above problems.

We are retired and do not appreciate the problems caused by the airport the way it is now. Your proposed construction to add more problems is ridiculous. The airport is directly behind our house. How would you like to have to put up with more noise on top of what is already going on? This is something that our neighborhood can do without. It is a waste of money.

I think you should relocate this plan to a location where there is no residential housing close by. This is very disturbing and inconsiderate of even thinking of doing this project in our residential neighborhood. We were happy here before all of the disruptions occurred. If this project goes through we will not even be able to sell our home.

James and Sally Cockrell  
1662 Mussel Swamp Road  
Tappahannock, VA 22560  
(804) 443-0014

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** bearsacre [bearsacre@att.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2011 9:59 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Cc:** bbuchanan62@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Tappahannock-Exxex County Airport

Mr. Fisher,

I am truly disturbed about the prospect of adding hangers and a helicopter pad to the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport as we currently have planes, one in particular, a bright yellow one that we have complained regarding flying very low over our home and the airport representatives basically stated they had no control as the airport would do nothing as they wanted the money from the plane being there. What a shame the airport has no respect for the citizens that live nearby. We have already experienced the loud noise of the helicopters flying and certainly do not want them in the area period let alone adding a pad to make it convenient for them.

We do not want longer runways nor helicopter pads, please sent these planes to the Richmond Airport which by air is only minutes away and I'm sure is a lot safer for everyone, especially the deer which you are controlling to keep the planes at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport.

Thank you.

Barbara C. Hatton

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** BBuchanan [bbuchanan62@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2011 8:25 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Cc:** Wayne Robertson; Stan Balderson; Senator Ryan McDougle; Scott Smith; Roger Pell; Peggy Butler; Paylor, David (DEQ); Pat Roth; Ken Cuccinelli; Keith Hodges; John Paul Jones; Kent, Martin (GOV); Hazel, Bill (GOV); Gary Bailey; Dianne Saison; delhmorgan@house.state.va.us; Debbie Saleik; Debbie Bailey; Cindy Clingman; Christy Buchanan; Dave Rector; Bob Crowder; Bill Lucas; Bill Dunn; Betty Lucas; Barbara Hatton; Duncan, Bob (DGIF)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Regarding the hangar/helicopter pad project for Tappahannock-Essex County Airport  
**Attachments:** BB airport DEQ comment letter.doc

Mr. Fisher,

Please accept the attached memo dated November 14th, 2011 as my public comment against the proposed project. I hope you will consider the content as relevant and initiate the actions necessary in performing a Socio-economic impact study for my community. I would hope your agency would respond to the environmental impacts the XSA airport has caused and the impending concerns for our bald eagles.

Respectfully,

Bernie Buchanan

November 14, 2011

Attention: Mr. John Fisher, EIR Coordinator

RE: Public comment regarding hangar/helicopter pad project for the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport (XSA).

Mr. Fisher,

I send this letter to you instead of Ms. Irons, because she was involved in the approval of the Tappahannock-Essex County airport years ago, against the enormous outpouring of citizens that opposed it. Nearly 600 signatures and letters against the airport were presented to her. The only large factory employment provider, H. Warshaw and Sons, made a plea against the new airport. It stated the company was established adjacent to the old airport for business requirements and needed the old airport for continued existence. That company went out of business and hundreds of folks lost their jobs. I hope you will listen to the concerns of the citizens of Essex County and deny approval of this project. "According to the policies of NEPA, the CEQ, FAA Order 1050.1E and DOT related orders, statutes and regulations, environmental considerations must be integrated into the project decision-making process as early as possible, in order to avoid or minimize negative impacts. It is stated that a project can be the subject of an EA or EIS if they have any of the characteristics, called 'extraordinary circumstances' such as disruption to an established community or likely to have a significant impact on noise levels." We have experienced a severe disruption to an established community and this project will only make matters worse.

Let me first begin with my Bald Eagle sightings. I would see several eagles flying near my home before the opening of the new airport. They disappeared shortly thereafter. I have begun to see some mature Bald Eagles again. About six months ago I counted 3 mature eagles and one totally in brown feathers (Immature) in the small field in front of my house. I witnessed two mature eagles in the trees in my woods just beside my house last month. Now, yesterday, I saw two immature eagles in my field and today I saw one. "I live in the flight path of the new airport." These eagles are in harms way and you are in a position of responsibility as a steward of our environment. So I share this one very important story with you .... for I fear I will soon be sharing a story of how a plane or helicopter has killed a bald eagle and the agencies that we pay to protect them did nothing. A second aircraft crash has occurred since the opening of the airport. A plane hit a deer while landing. Deer are now a priority for killing by the airport personnel and are eliminated just for maintaining a clear runway for the few aircraft that do use it. Does the VDEQ approve of this environmental impact? Are the deer exempt from your protection?

The XSA airport was advertised and still continues to be communicated as something that will bring business to the region. It cannot be farther from the truth. No new business has established itself because of the new airport. However, it did drive H. Warshaw away. This region has "two" municipal airports (XSA and FYJ) within 20 nautical miles from one another. They are in direct competition for a limited resource of business for this area and will continue to cause each other to fail. It was a stupid decision to have two airports so close to one another.

Your agency is called the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Is the air that we breathe in our community exempt from air quality? Your agency approved this airport which is designed to

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promote the sale of "leaded fuel?" There is a reason why we no longer supply leaded fuel for our automobiles. Thanks to the new airport, aircraft subject our community to modest levels of lead disbursed into the air that we breathe. Is that okay with you? The only reason for more hangars and the helicopter pad is to promote more aircraft in our area. The current project calls for disposal of all waste to be buried on site. You would approve of this?

A municipal airport brings with it much noise. The people who live here chose a rural, quiet environment over the convenience of a town and its noise, or the interstate highways. We chose tranquility. We preferred to drive to town for the conveniences and come back to our quiet households. This has been destroyed and will get worse with the adding of more hangars and the enticement of a new pad for helicopters to land. Military helicopters come at all hours of the night, with ground penetrating spotlights. They hover and play over and around our homes for hours at times. Why? They say they are on training missions. Kids live here that are trying to do their homework after school. The elderly can't sleep or are frightened by the reverberations and severe noise from them. Crop dusters buzz our homes at treetop level. Those of us that support our families loose sleep and we have nowhere to turn for help. Who do we call to report this noise and stop it? There is no one, the airport doesn't care. You call the sheriff if there is a loud party going on next door. Are we less of an American citizen than you? We should not be required to accept such abuse. This project will just encourage more.

The new airport was constructed with the "approval" from your agency to fill in nearly two acres of wetlands. It was suggested that a bigger and better area was built to replace the lost tributaries. I ask you to review the areas near the existing hangars now and see the erosion that exists. The authority is attempting to stop it, but it has existed for years. All of this erosion passes into the Mussel Swamp tributary, into the Piscataway creek, into the Rappahannock and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. You should be embarrassed to say you are part of the DEQ and say you are stewards of our environment. The thousands upon thousands of trees that were destroyed for the airport. Do you not promote trees for keeping our air that we breathe oxygenated and don't the trees keep the soil from eroding? Not anymore,... they are all gone! The VDEQ approved their destruction.

In closing, consider this: the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport (FYJ) already has a long runway. It has the ingredients for the need of more hangars and it supports helicopters now. It more than adequately provides for the transit and local aircraft needs of this region. We must stop wasting our precious dollars on the ill conceived XSA airport that will never be accepted by this community. It will never reach any level of proficiency near what it falsely proposed it would do. Our community and its environment are at stake. I ask that you reject this proposed project at the XSA airport and protect our community. Please, follow your agency's true mission statement and protect our environment as you are sworn to do.

Respectfully,

Bernie Buchanan  
2609 Mussel Swamp Rd.  
Dunnsville, VA 22454 804-445-0949

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** jherring [jherring@va.metrocast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2011 8:44 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Tappahannock Airport

The Tappahannock Airport was something that the majority of citizens did not want in the first place. It has been a drain on the taxpayers since inception.

To increase the size would only add more of a burden at a bad time for the average taxpayer.

The noise now is considerable when the helicopters fly by low.

The crop duster is VERY annoying and dangerous. He flies over our house at a very low altitude just above the trees ( we are in a wooded area.

If you allow a longer runway the noise would increase.

Please do not let this cancer grow.

John & Helen Herring  
822 Meadow Drive  
Tappahannock, Va. 22560

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** sharon umphlette [umphmom@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2011 9:23 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Tappahannock Essex County Airport

To: John fisher EIR Coordinator

I received a letter in the mail regarding the Tappahannock -Essex County Airport. I am taking this opportunity to pose my response against the action of construction of additional hangers and a helicopter pad at the Airport located behind and near my property. The noise by the aircraft on Sundays is very aggravating. Planes take off all day long flying over landing and taking off again. Some times at night there are helicopters over there with so much noise it is hard even to go to sleep. Now they are proposing to build a longer runway and more helicopter pads. Crop dusters take off and do not go all the way down the runway but come right in between my house and the neighbor's property. If they can afford to build additional runway and helicopter pads why not build a fence around the airstrip to keep the deer off instead of killing them. It is an infringement on our rights to deny us the right of building on our own property to allow for a buffer zone for an airport that many of us opposed in the first place. Several of us in the neighborhood spoke in the town meeting against the building of the airport. I do not see the need for the expanded construction in such a rural community.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Charles Stokes  
704 Mussel Swamp Road  
Tappahannock VA 22560  
804 443 2175



**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Becky Francis [beckyfrancis15@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2011 10:45 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** No to expanding AIRPORT!!!!!!

I was informed yesterday that the Airport by our house might be expanded. I am writing this letter to try to stop this! My husband and myself moved from the Varina area 7 years ago, to come out to the quiet. It was so quiet here. We have 6 acres, and we call it Gods Country. I have gotten use to the small planes but my husband wanted to move when he heard first of the airport. He is real upset about more planes because they do fly right over our property. You have to votes not to expand the Airport! I don't want to move as I LOVE my home in Dunnsville.

Thanks  
Glenn and Becky Francis  
170 Old Howerton Rd.  
Dunnsville, VA  
804-443-1099 H  
804-564-4537C

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November 13, 2011

Mr. John Fisher, EIR Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Fisher

We are writing to strongly oppose any additional hangers or a helicopter pad at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. We already endure many days when we are unable to enjoy being outside of our home due to the noise of the low flying aircraft. There was one weekend in the spring when the helicopters flew so low over our home that my husband and I had to yell at each other to make ourselves heard while we were working in our yard. I seriously doubt that this is something you would enjoy.

One of our main reasons for purchasing a home where we did is because we enjoy living in a country environment away from the noise and traffic of a big city. We have spent the majority of our lives living in a city environment and in our retirement years we long to enjoy the quiet that this area can offer.

In addition, if the airport is allowed to expand it will drive down the resale value of our home in an economy that has already depressed home values.

We urge you to consider the quality of life of those who live in our community rather than the pressure from those who want to expand the airport. After all, we are the ones who live here and have to put up with the noise and the dangers that the airport presents.

Sincerely,



Sandra Orton  
1618 Mussel Swamp Road  
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560  
804-246-0395

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** ROBBIE BOOTH [r\_booth@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 17, 2011 12:39 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Essex County airport

Hi John. I would like to voice my concerns about the additional hangars & a helicopter pad at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. I own a home in Henley Fork which is a nice neighborhood not too far away from the airport. As a realtor I have already seen the air noise having negative impacts on my clients wanting to buy in the surrounding areas. Of course this also keeps property values down & in turn owners are stuck in their homes without being able to sell. I also have an 18 month old daughter & it is really frustrating to have her wake up during naps, etc because of the overhead noise pollution. Added that it is ashame that I moved to a peaceful neighbor just to raise a family & now my little girl will have to grow up around this mess. Not sure of any health risks but I'm sure there could be some with the crop dusters, etc that use the airport. Don't forget the eagles & wildlife as I bet they have already been pushed away from this once beautiful area we call home. I understand the need for a small scale airport (which exists now)-- but lets keep it that way, please !

Robbie Booth, Realtor  
Shore Realty, Inc.  
440 Henley Fork Drive  
Tappahannock, Va 22560

Fisher, John (DEQ)

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From: Kathy Helms [khelms51@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 12:12 PM  
To: Fisher, John (DEQ); Gene Helms, SR.  
Subject: Airport

Dear sir:

I am writing to you about the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. Planes from the airport disrupt our neighborhoods, disturb our wildlife and are a continuing drain on the resources of our county. We do not need an expansion of this white elephant. Trying to make this a profitable adventure by pouring more money into it is ridiculous for the taxpayers of this county. There are deer on the runway at any given time (why not, there is a corn field at the end of the runway with half of the corn still laying in the field --Oct. 31, I observed this personally!) We used to see all types of birds, eagles and herons flying over all of the time, but not now with all the noise. The airport does not need any more hangers or a helicopter pad, please vote against the intrusion of our private property.

Thank you,

*Kathy Helms*  
*2072 Essex Mill Road*  
*Dunnsville, VA 22454*  
*804 443-3919*

2072 Essex Mill Road  
Dunnsville, VA 22454  
804 443-3919

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Gene Helms [ghelms40@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2011 12:14 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** FW: Airport

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From: [khelms51@hotmail.com](mailto:khelms51@hotmail.com)  
To: [john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov); [ghelms40@hotmail.com](mailto:ghelms40@hotmail.com)  
Subject: Airport  
Date: Fri, 18 Nov 2011 12:12:07 -0500

Dear sir:

I am writing to you about the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. Planes from the airport disrupt our neighborhoods, disturb our wildlife and are a continuing drain on the resources of our county. We do not need an expansion of this white elephant. Trying to make this a profitable adventure by pouring more money into it is ridiculous for the taxpayers of this county. There are deer on the runway at any given time (why not, there is a corn field at the end of the runway with half of the corn still laying in the field --Oct. 31, I observed this personally!) We used to see all types of birds, eagles and herons flying over all of the time, but not now with all the noise. The airport does not need any more hangers or a helicopter pad, please vote against the intrusion of our private property.

Thank you,

*Gene E. Helms*

FRANK JEWELL

500 Sand Landing Road  
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

PHONE 804.443.6871  
FAX 804.443.0177

E-MAIL bfjewell@crosslink.net

John Fisher, EIR Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

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November 18, 2011

Dear Mr. Fisher,

We are writing you this letter to express our deepest concern and objection to the proposal to add hangars and a helicopter pad to the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport for several reasons: importance of maintaining wildlife habitat; lack of evidence for any significant economic benefit the airport has provided the county to date; safety concerns for the area around the airport; and the likely decrease in the value of our property.

My wife and I live at the end of Bell Lane on the banks of upper Piscataway Creek and Marsh where we see eagles daily and know there are at least five in the area (we saw two immature and three adults feeding on something last May). We believe that at least one nest is located between our house and the swamp area close to Gordons Mill Road in an area adjacent to the airport. This area is part of the Important Bird Area (IBA) designated by BirdLife International (a global Partnership of conservation organizations) because it has the largest concentration of bald eagles on this side of the Mississippi River. As it stands today, there is a disturbing amount of both noise pollution (especially on the weekends) and light pollution (with the revolving light beam at night). It is inconceivable that additional traffic will not disturb this area's population of bald eagles.

The Essex County Comprehensive Plan's overriding goal is to "continue protecting the rural nature of the county through careful management of natural resources and control of future development, at the same time allowing for moderate growth in the economic base and job supply." To date we see no evidence or socio-economic impact study of benefits this airport has provided to us and the majority of the citizens in Essex County. I only know of the drain this airport has been on the county and town budgets to pay for the debt to the extent that the town is interested in withdrawing from their commitment of \$30,000 a year.

Regardless of the rules, planes do fly low to the ground in area around the airport and frequently follow the course of the creek posing a threat to safety in the surrounding area. As to the effect on property values, at present if we were to sell, we would not show our house on a Sunday afternoon in the spring and summer due to the noise generated by a steady stream of planes. Both concerns for safety and property values are underscored by the airport lawyer's interest in establishing a buffer zone to limit future growth around the airport.

We appreciate your close attention to this matter. A decision to approve further growth of the airport will perpetuate what was, in the first place, an unnecessary burden on the surrounding area and on the whole of Essex County.

Sincerely,



Frank Jewell and Sarah Lavicka

cc. Bud Smith

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Frank Jewell [bfjewell@hughes.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2011 12:00 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Tappahannock-Essex County Airport Expansion Permit  
**Attachments:** Essex Airport Letter to John Fisher.doc

Dear Mr. Fisher,

We are following up our November 18<sup>th</sup> letter sent by USPS (see attached) with this email to encourage you to go to William & Mary's Center for Conservation Biology web page which shows the location eagle nests in the area. Just log on; select "Essex" in the required box; and scroll to the bottom of the web page to see the known locations on the Google map. You will see that there are three bald eagle nests along Piscataway before Rt 17 bridge and one in upper Piscataway swamp near Gordon Mill Road---all in the flyway of this airport.

<http://ccb-wm.org/virginiaeagles/eagleData.php?AgreeDataUse=on&SubmitAgreeTerms=View+Data>

Once again, we urge you to recommend that the permit to add hangars and a helicopter pad to the Tappahannock-Essex County airport be denied.

Thank you,

Frank Jewell and Sarah Lavicka



## 2011 Virginia Bald Eagle Nest Survey Data

The **2011 Virginia Eagle Nest Survey Report** is now available in pdf format.

### Instructions

1) First choose a city or county in which to view nest data, then click **Submit**.

The data for the independent city or county you select will be displayed

on a map centered in the space below. - select a city/county -

Cities and counties that do not appear in the list have no known/reported bald eagle nests for location information from the most recently concluded annual survey. If you think you know of recently active nest, please refer to the page on **Reporting New Nests**.

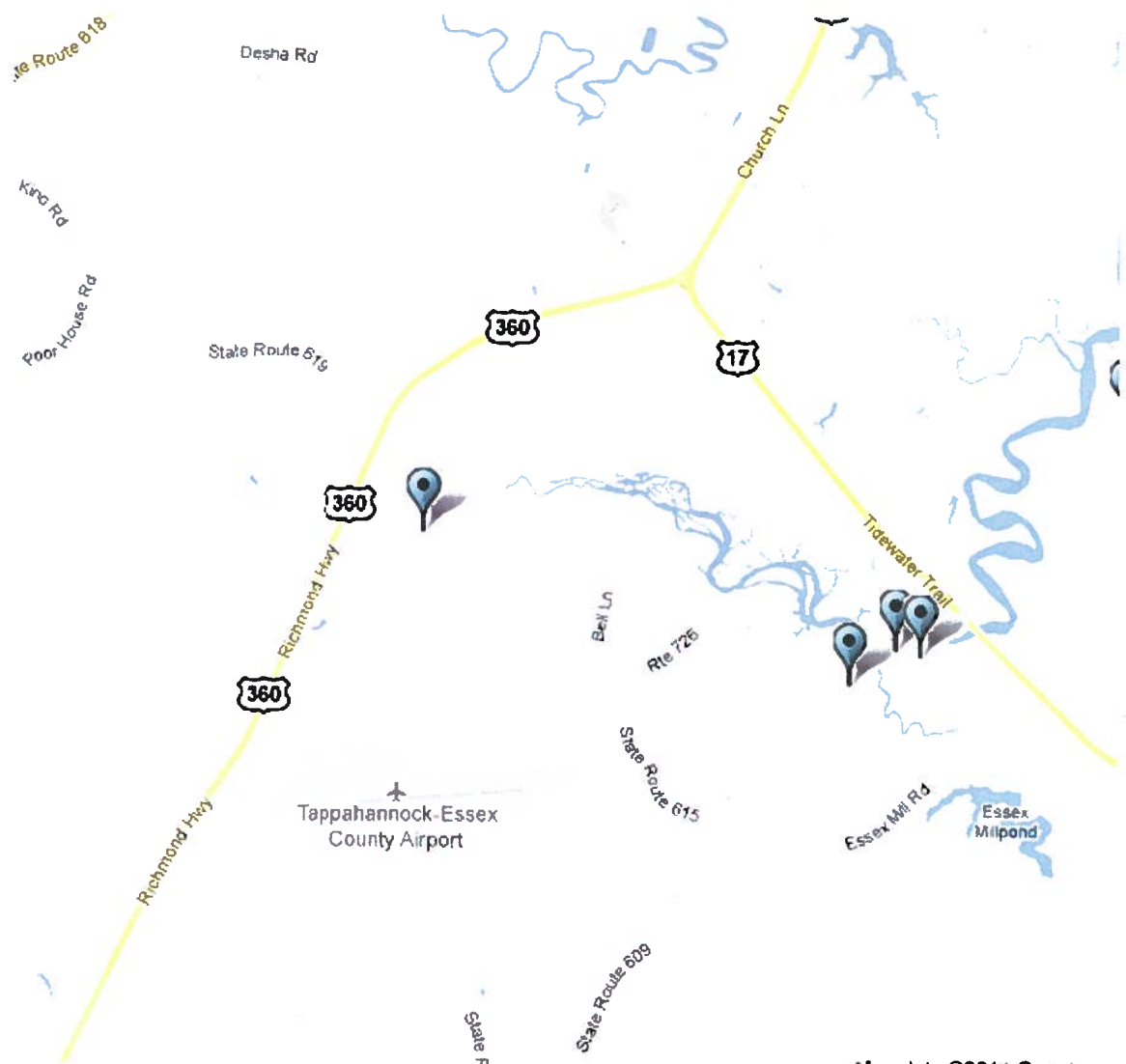
2) Use the "+" and "-" in the top left corner to zoom in and out, and the arrows to navigate. You can also map to navigate and change the view by clicking "Map," "Satellite" or "Hybrid."

3) To select a different city/county, choose another from the pull-down list and again click **Submit**  
[ [Link to VA county map, US Census Bureau](#) ]

[ FYI: You will see an empty black box below until a county has been submitted and is displayed. The VaEagles map displaying Virginia's known eagle nests in the city or county selected may take a load, depending on the amount of data for the locality requested and upon your browser and connection speed. ]

The Center for Conservation Biology - Virginia Eagles Nest Locator

Currently displaying 2011 survey data from: **ESSEX**



## **Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** bearsacre [bearsacre@att.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2011 6:38 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Cc:** bbuchanan62@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Tappahannock-Essex County Airport

November 21, 2011

Mr. Fisher,

I was made aware of efforts to add hangars and a helicopter pad to the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. I find this disturbing.

My home was purchased five years ago because it was in a quiet, tranquil setting each time I visited it. No mention of the airport, or plans to expand it occurred during any visits to the house or discussions about the property. It was not until after the home was purchased, and my wife and I started to plan and prepare it for eventual retirement we realized how detrimental the airport would be to our quality of life in retirement.

There are times aircraft fly overhead, simply circling our community. Some aircraft sound as if they do not utilize muffling devices for their engines. At times aircraft can be heard into the evening disrupting the peace and tranquility our community otherwise provides. Military helicopters have also flown overhead, and my home rattles due to the heavy vibrations generated by the helicopters engines and rotors, especially when they fly at lower altitudes.

In the past, a yellow plane has flown over my house repeatedly at very low flight levels. While I cannot confirm it, I have guessed it to be a crop duster. Regardless, it appeared to be flying at a flight level less than 500 feet based on its relationship to surrounding trees as it approached and overflew my home. This type of flight activity is especially disconcerting because of possible releases of pesticides over my home, and the reduced time and distance available for the pilot to react should an in-flight emergency occur.

I wish it to be known I oppose any increase in activity or capability at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. It is viewed as a cancer which limits my quality of life in retirement, and will only get worse if allowed to grow. I have seen eagles on numerous occasions less than a quarter mile from the airport. In my opinion the airport is detrimental to the eagle's habitat and safety. I have been informed deer are being killed to accommodate safety at the airport. I oppose wildlife kills for the express purpose of allowing people to pursue an activity I expect is primarily pleasure driven, and not essential to the existence and safety of the general population of our community. In addition, I am not interested in any changes which increase the potential for additional military aircraft to operate over my community. There is potential for an accident anytime an aircraft takes off, lands, or is in the air. Every aircraft that flies over my home increases my risk. I have also observed aircraft flying from the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport that appears to be experimental aircraft. These aircraft can be unreliable, and a crash risk simply because of their experimental nature and because they bypass certain controls and regulations.

In summary, I oppose efforts to expand capabilities at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. Instead I would prefer it to have limited operational capabilities, and be required to control operations and flights which fly over and disrupt the quality of life in my community near the airport. Second, I oppose efforts or actions planned or underway which limit how I use my property or will deflate my property's value. Third, before making plans to expand the airport's capabilities, I submit socio-economic and environmental studies need to be performed. Fourth, I think area residents should receive sufficient advance notification of proposals, studies, and plans for changes to the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport so residents can review and provide comments before changes are made.

Thank you for allowing me to air my opinions, and considering my issues.

Respectfully,  
John Hatton  
Deep Landing, Tappahannock, VA

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** sandy spencer [sandyenspencer@ecoisp.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 24, 2011 3:49 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Re: Essex County Airport Expansion

Dear Mr. Fisher,

As a landowner in Essex County, with 30 acres of forested and marsh property along the upper Piscataway Creek, I am opposed the expansion of the Essex County Airport. Already there is noise and low-flying disturbance even on weekends, including Sundays, when one wishes to enjoy quiet and solitude and rare chances to take in nature. I bought the property not only to secure opportunities for myself to get away from cities and suburbia, but also to help protect some pristine forest and the wildlife that depend on it.

The tidal Piscataway and the surrounding forest is used by bald eagles for nesting, foraging, and nighttime roost sites. The state has a responsibility to consider impacts on this still state-listed species. While bald eagles may appear to be doing well, with increased nest sites and increased population, maintaining the Virginia population at sustainable levels depends on compatible land use practices in the vicinity of sensitive habitats, such as large blocks of intact mature forests along tidal creeks and rivers. This means protecting these areas from disturbance from above as well as on the ground. Forests that fit this description are at a premium and the most vulnerable to loss. Riparian forest of this size along tidal creeks in the Atlantic migratory flyway are important stopover sites for migrating birds in the spring and fall. Increased lighting, communication towers, air traffic, and noise will be disturbing and potentially lethal to this important group, already suffering death by a thousand cuts by increased development of forests within the flyway.

The increased flights and low-flying planes and helicopters and other craft close the forest resulting from expansion of the airport and is unacceptable and violates my rights to peaceable existence on my own property, which preceded that of the airport.

Please recommend that this expansion permit be denied.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Sandy Spencer  
Essex County landowner  
Beech Tree Bluffs (Lots 67-B/C)  
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560  
804-761-6517

mailing address:  
16230 Cambridge Court  
Bowie, Md 20715

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** debbiesaleik@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 26, 2011 7:13 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Essex Airport

Dear Mr. Fisher,

This e-mail is in regard to the additional hangars and heli-pad project at the Essex County Airport. I am against these additions to an airport that wasn't even needed in the first place. We don't need two airports within 20 nautical miles of one another. Stop the wasteful spending of our tax dollars!!!

Sincerely,  
Debbie Saleik

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NOV 26 2011

OEQ-Office of Environmental  
Impact Review

John Fisher, EIR Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

November 26, 2011

Dear Mr. Fisher,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposal to add hangars and a helicopter pad to the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. We purchased 121 acres along the upper Piscataway specifically to preserve it as a natural area for birds and wildlife. We regularly see bald eagles on the property and in this area of the creek and are concerned with the impact of additional air traffic. Has a related environmental impact assessment been conducted? Will there be public hearings related to the proposed expansion? Have flight routes been planned to minimize the impact on wildlife. It would be very disappointing to have the efforts to preserve this pristine upper Piscataway area unexpectedly impacted by increased air traffic without a full impact assessment.

Our understanding is that the Essex County Comprehensive Plan's overriding goal is to "continue protecting the rural nature of the county through careful management of natural resources and control of future development, at the same time allowing for moderate growth in the economic base and job supply." Is the planned expansion consistent with the County Plan? We understand from discussion with the County that this area, including our property, are being maintained as rural and agricultural consistent with the comprehensive plan – but this now seems at odds with the proposed airport expansion.

We appreciate your attention to this, and look forward to hearing from you to better understand current and future plans for the airport and this conservation area. Our property address is 1107 Mussel Swamp Road. Our mailing address is:

27507 Whispering Maple Way,  
Spring Texas 77386.

Sincerely,

Lindsay and Patty Booher

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Cindyclingman@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 27, 2011 6:57 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Tappahannock Airport

Dear John,

I am writing this e-mail to voice my concern over the Tappahannock airport. In my opinion, it seems like wasteful spending to have two airports within 20 nautical miles of one another. I am adamantly against the building of additional hangers and a helipad.

Respectfully,

Cindy Clingman

## **Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** drector@vabb.com  
**Sent:** Monday, November 28, 2011 8:43 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Essex Airport Expansion!

Dear Mr. Fisher

I would not like for any more expansion to take place in or around the Essex Airport to include hangers and additional runways. This airport has been a fiasco from the very beginning. The shady way the property was obtained from Norther Neck Lumber to the acquisition of permits to clear many acres of wetlands. This fiasco would include the hangers built without power and an airport void of fuel that had to added later. The county is looking into buffer zones which would include my property. Who will compensate me for my property being devalued in the event of no build zones.

The eagles that have been very prevalent since we moved into the area now almost unseen. The noise from crop dusters that do not fly at normal altitudes or take normal approaches to the run way have been very troublesome and quite frankly scary at times.

I was here first and absolutely no consideration for the community has been a part of any plans of this airport from the very start. Community voices were not heard from the very beginning, but this project proceeded along that benefited a few individuals only. What a sham!

I urge yo not to proceed until you have done some impact studies on both the community and the environment.

Sincerely,  
David M. Rector  
220 rizendine Lane  
Dunnsville VA 22454



**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** nettiebarrett@netzero.net  
**Sent:** Monday, November 28, 2011 9:48 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Proposed construction

To Whomever it may concern:

I wish to comment on the proposed construction at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport.

I am AGAINST the proposed construction and wish to vote my protest again it. This, any and all additional constructions!

Please consider this and all of the other comments from others that WE DO NOT WANT THIS ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION AT THE AIRPORT IN ESSEX COUNTY, OR ANY OTHER CONSTRUCTION IN THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU!

SINCERELY YOURS,

NETTIE BARRETT  
2707 SCOTTS MILL ROAD  
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560  
(804) 443-4266

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Pam Lane [pam.lane47@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 5:50 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Tappahannock-Essex County Airport

I am writing to express my concern over expansion plans for the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. I understand that more hangars and a helicopter pad may be added to a facility that serves the needs of only a privileged few. I live a couple miles "cross country" from the airport and do not want to hear more air traffic. I am especially worried about the airport's effect on our local eagle population. I urge you to conduct a socio-economic impact study to determine how the airport and these proposed additions effect the quality of life here. Thank you for your help.

Pam Lane  
4097 Essex Mill Road  
Howertons, VA 22454  
(804) 443-5969

*Faith Baptist Academy  
3899 Richmond Highway  
Tappahannock, VA 22560*

*November 26, 2011*

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NOV 29 2011

DEQ-Office of Environmental  
Impact Review

John Fisher, EIR Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Fisher:

This letter is in reference to the proposed construction of hangers and helicopter pad at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. I sincerely hope that you, as EIR Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Quality, will do what is within your power to prevent this additional situation from happening.

Faith Baptist Academy is located within close proximity of the airport. Consequently, our students are subjected to the noise of planes flying directly above our school on a daily basis. Whether we are inside or outside the building we experience the disturbance of the air traffic.

Faith Baptist Church also is subjected to the current noise as three services each week are conducted in the sanctuary.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

*Tia S. Yeatts*

Tia S. Yeatts, Principal/ Teacher

Telephone: 804-443-2184

**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**3899 RICHMOND HIGHWAY**  
**TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560**

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NOV 29 2011

Office of Environmental  
Quality Review

Church Phone: 804-443-2184  
Pastor (Home) 804-443-3239  
Cell 804-445-3295

John C. Yeatts, Pastor  
Believe on the Lord Jesus  
Christ and thou shalt be save  
(Acts 16:31).

November 22, 2011

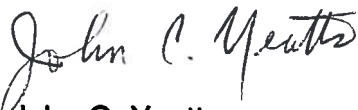
Mr. John Fisher, EIR Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street, 6th Floor.  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I am making an appeal for the airport in Essex County to stay 'as is'. The church already gets some disturbance from the air traffic. I am of the opinion that if larger jet planes, crop dusters, and helicopters, military and civilian, are allowed access to the facility, it will decrease the tranquility that we, at the church, now enjoy. I am deeply concerned about the increase in the noise factor. At times, the planes travel over our church building when getting airborne and landing.

Thank you for kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

  
John C. Yeatts

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** nettiejean1947@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 10:42 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Proposed additions to Tappahannock-Essex County Airport.

TO WHOMEVER IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM WRITING IN PROTEST TO THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION TO ADD HANGARS, HELICOPTERS PARKING PAD, AND HELICOPTER FUELING PAD.

I AM AGAINST THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS.

PLEASE ENTER MY NAME ON THE PROTEST LIST.

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY YOURS,

KEVIN A. BARRETT  
2707 SCOTTS MILL ROAD  
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560  
(804) 925-5786

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Judy Haile [judyhaile@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 10:52 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Proposal construction for Tappahannock-Essex County Airport

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am TOTALLY against the proposed construction at the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. This and any other additional constructions!

Please consider this and all other comments from other Essex Citizens that WE DO NOT WANT THIS ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION AT THE ESSEX COUNTY AIRPORT NOW OR IN THE FUTURE!!!

Thank you

Judy Haile  
31323 Tidewater Trail  
Center Cross, Virginia 22437

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Doris Davis [dkdcya@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 11:25 AM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** TAPPAHANNOCK AIRPORT

I WOULD LIKE TO START OUT BY SAYING THAT IT IS SAD WHEN A FEW SELECT INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNTY THINK THEY HAVE THE POSITION AND RIGHT TO DO AS THEY PLEASE!!!! THEY HAVE THE AUDACITY TO IGNORE PEOPLE WHEN THEY VOICE OBJECTIONS ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE AIRPORT. WE PAY THEIR SALARYS YET THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR OPINIONS. SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS!!!!

EVERYONE I TALK TO WAS AGAINST THE AIRPORT TO START WITH. WE CANNOT EVEN SIT OUTSIDE IN THE EVENING TO ENJOY THE PEACEFUL NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE WE HAVE THE NOISE OF AIRPLANES GOING OVERHEAD. I AM A MEMBER OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH AND WE CANNOT EVEN ENJOY THE SERVICE WITHOUT HAVING THE AWFUL NOISE OF AIRPLANES OVERHEAD.

I FEEL THAT IF THE AIRPORT IS NOT SELF-SUPPORTING, THAT IS NOT OUR PROBLEM. WE SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO BARE THIS BURDEN AND BE TAXED FOR SOMETHING UNNESSARY. VERY FEW PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM THE AIRPORT. THE PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT FROM IT ARE THE ONES WHO SHOULDED PAY!!!! THE ONLY BUFFER THEY SHOULD HAVE IS ONE TO STOP THE NOISE!!!!

WHOSE BRIGHT IDEA WAS IT ANYWAY TO PUT AN AIRPORT IN A GULLEY WITH THE PLAN TO PUT AN INDUSTRIAL PARK AROUND IT. THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE AT ALL!!!! THIS WHOLE THING IS A MONSTROSITY!!! THEY FILLED IN WET LANDS SO THAT OUR WILDLIFE HAS NOWHERE TO GO!!!! I GUESS THE EAGLES WILL HAVE TO RELOCATE!!!!

JOHN A. DAVIS JR.

November 29, 2011

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I am contacting you to provide my comments regarding the current Tappahannock-Essex County airport hangar-helicopter pad project. I ask that you reject this project and that you perform a study or survey of the surrounding community, so as to determine the impact this airport has had to our homes and our standard of living. The placement of this airport here was a very bad decision and most of the citizens of this county do not support it. This expansion of the airport is not welcomed and will only intensify the air traffic in and over our homes. I chose to live here for the privacy that it provided to me. My right to live in the uninterrupted privacy of my home has been severely impacted by this airport and the building of more hangars and a helicopter pad will only destroy it more.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Buchanan".

Ms. Eileen Buchanan  
Dunnsville, VA 22454



## **Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Bill Lucas [bill@bettyandbill.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 3:13 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Comment on the Tappahannock\_Essex airport expansion

Dear Mr. Fisher,

November 29, 2011

I am a landowner in Essex County and spend quite a bit of time in the upper portion of Piscataway Creek bird watching from our boat.

I am opposed to any expansion of the Tappahannock-Essex airport.

From all appearances, the airport primarily supports private aircraft used for pleasure and not for the commercial benefit of the county.

Over the past 20 years, the bald eagle population in Essex has appeared to increase along the edge of the river and creeks. I have limited visibility into the rest of the county.

I have noticed, however, when fixed wing aircraft and to a greater extent, helicopters are in the area, bald eagles leave their nests and don't return for several hours.

I am concerned if there is incremental air traffic at the airport, these bald eagles will leave permanently.

The long term financial impact on Essex County is a concern. The airport has not brought any incremental commercial business into the county. In fact, businesses justifying the airport's construction have ceased operation in the county, several years ago.

Essex is a relatively poor county. After grants for the proposed expansion have been exhausted, it will be a burden on the citizens of the county to maintain the airport with their taxpayer funds. The airport is operating at a deficit right now, with no evidence of being profitable in the future.

The Middle Peninsula Airport, residing in West Point, satisfies all of the region's air traffic needs and I must question the why the Tappahannock-Essex Airport was built in such close proximity to the one in West Point, in the first place.

Thank you for your help restricting unnecessary and unwanted growth of the Tappahannock-Essex airport.

Regards,  
William Lucas  
Dunnsville, VA

**Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Betty Lucas [beattiemill@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 8:45 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** XSA Airport Extension Comment Submission

Dear Mr. Fisher,

Please count me in as a NO to the expansion of the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport [XSA]! Records abound that a large group of citizens in Essex County DID NOT want the new XSA airport to be built in their community. Now you want to add insult to injury by expanding the unwanted airport.

Excellent airport services can be readily found at the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport [FYJ] in West Point, which is 24 miles from the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport. If the FAA wants to waste money the federal/state/local governments don't have, take the funds borrowed from China to West Point where it is welcomed.

Expanded airport services can be found 47 miles away at the Richmond International Airport [RIC]. They have a larger tax base to spread around the losses incurred by airports.

The Essex County community is already harassed daily with noise from touch-and-go flights, and after-reasonable-hours flights over their homes. Taxpayers are forced to live with the danger of accidental airplane crashes. The wetlands, which you claim are so important to protect, have been MOVED! And the wildlife, including the Bald Eagle, is being agitated repeatedly.

We would like to know what "stakeholders" are benefiting from this airport and expansion. I can tell you what "stakeholders" are not being served...the 99% living in Essex County!

Betty Lucas  
Dunnsville, VA

## **Fisher, John (DEQ)**

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**From:** Edward Kroh [edkroh@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2011 9:14 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Subject:** Tappahannock - Essex Airport

I am writing in reference to the proposed expansion of the Tappahannock- Essex Airport. Enough already!! When the airport was originally proposed at its present location we were told the noise level would be low and we would hardly notice. What a crock. This used to be a quiet peaceful area but no longer. Between the recreational fliers every weekend, we have to endure spray planes without mufflers and too frequently large helicopters that rattle the house windows. It feels like another earthquake. We were told the airport would attract industry but we have lost most of what industry we had. This airport has been nothing but a point of controversy and expense for the residents of the county and town.

We are stuck with what we have but we certainly do not want our quality of life and property values degraded any more by expansion and we don't want to attract any more aircraft activity with its accompanying crash hazard.

We had this current facility "shoved down our throat", please not again.

Respectfully,  
Edward L. Kroh  
1811 Mussel Swamp Road  
Tappahannock, VA 22560  
(804) 443-7406

## Fisher, John (DEQ)

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**From:** Irons, Ellie (DEQ)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011 3:24 PM  
**To:** Fisher, John (DEQ)  
**Cc:** riverbob34@gmail.com  
**Subject:** FW: XSA Airport Extension Comment Submission

FYI; he had a mistake (') in your email address.

Ellie Irons  
Program Manager  
Office of Environmental Impact Review  
629 East Main Street, Room 631  
Richmond, VA 23219  
Telephone: (804) 698-4325  
Fax; (804) 698-4319  
email address: [Ellie.Irons@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Ellie.Irons@deq.virginia.gov) <http://www.deq.virginia.gov>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bob Crowder [<mailto:riverbob34@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011 10:41 AM  
**To:** Irons, Ellie (DEQ)  
**Subject:** XSA Airport Extension Comment Submission

Dear Ms.Irons,  
I have attempted to send the message below to Mr Fisher, at [john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov) and [john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov), four times and each time it comes back as "undeliverable". Would you please see that the message below gets to the appropriate person(s)?

Thank You,

Robert Crowder  
Dunnsville, VA

Dear Mr. Fisher,

As a visitor to this area since World War II, a property owner since 1975 and a resident since 2002, I would like to add my opinion to the proposed enlargement of flying facilities at The Tappahannock Essex Airport. I take great pleasure in sitting in my yard and watching Ospreys in the summer and Bald Eagles year around without the noise of helicopters and planes. I take pleasure in watching nature in action as I see the osprey and eagle young take flight. I take NO pleasure in watching aircraft interfere with natural life. I take offense that I have to pay for people that are not even residents of this county to have their play toy housed on a facility that a majority of the residents do not want in the present location. The old location is still unused and the present location has not brought the first indication of any revenue enhancement. Instead it has become an additional financial burden on an citizenry already overburden with citizens' taxes in trying to educate the underprivileged children. When it comes to choosing between educating children or providing an airport for individuals wealthy enough to have planes to play with, it should be a very easy decision.

With another more than adequate facility less than 25 miles away and the federal government running the deficit it currently has, how can the decision makers in your agency even

seriously consider such an expansion. It would be a slap in the face of Essex County citizens to expand a facility that they did not want in the first place. It is often said that the further government is removed from the populace the worst government that the populace will receive. This is premised on the basis that the decision makers do not have to face the people that will be negatively impacted by their decisions. I would hope that you and your agency will prove that premise wrong, at least in this case. Make a decision based on the impact and not on the wishes of the few that base aircraft @ this location. If it is not sufficient for their wishes, then it is easier to move a half dozen aircraft 25 miles than it would be to move just one house.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert H. Crowder,  
Dunnsville, Virginia

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NOV 30 2011

DEQ-Office of Environmental  
Impact Review

27 November 2011

John Fisher, EIR Coordinator  
Office of Environmental Quality  
629 East Main Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Fisher,

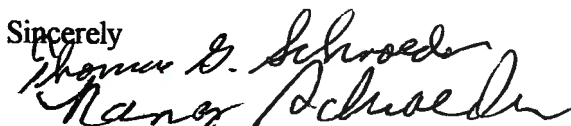
The reason for this letter is to object to the proposed helicopter pad and additional hangers for the Tappahannock-Essex County Airport for the following reasons:

- The airport has not provided any significant economic benefits to the county.
- Safety concerns for the area around the airport.
- Impact on the bald eagles nesting nears the airport.
- Dramatic increase in noise generated by the planes, helicopters and crop dusters using the airport.
- 

My wife and I live less then a mile from the airport at the mouth of Mussel Swamp and the Piscataway Creek We see bald eagles frequently and are exposed to the airplanes noise daily.

We appreciate your looking into this situation and solicit your help in curtailing any future expansions at he airport.

Sincerely



Thomas & Nancy Schroeder  
659 Bohannans Landing  
Dunnsville, VA 22454

Cc. Mr. Bud Smith